

Declassified Under Authority of the Interagency
Security Classification Appeals Panel,
E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP Appeal No. 2008-026, Document 38
Declassification Date: August 31, 2026

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
JUNE

~~SECRET~~

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : MR. TOLSON ✓

DATE: 3/30/65

FROM : A. H. Belmont

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.
cc Mr. Belmont
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Gale
Mr. J.D. Donohue

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCES and
MICROPHONE SURVEILLANCES

With reference to the Director's conversation with the AG this morning, concerning technical and microphone surveillances, I immediately called Assistant Directors Sullivan, Rosen and Gale, and instructed that, effective immediately, all microphone surveillances are to be authorized by the AG, in the same manner as we now secure authority for technical surveillances. In addition, when either a technical or microphone surveillance is discontinued within six months after being placed, the AG is to be notified. Also, at intervals of six months after placing a technical or microphone surveillance, the AG is to be advised that the surveillances are being continued and the reasons why.

With reference to technical and microphone surveillances now in existence, we of course require periodic justification from the field for the continuance of these surveillances. At the time of the next justification on these current surveillances we are to notify the AG that they are in existence and are being continued, and the reasons why. This will put him on notice on a staggered basis as these justifications come in.

It is not considered advisable to send out a written communication to the field on these new procedures. The notification to the Attorney General is handled entirely at the seat of government, and no technical or microphone surveillances can be placed without clearance by the Bureau at the seat of government. If the Director agrees, we will orally explain to the SACs when they come to the seat of government for two-day conferences or inservice training that we are following this new procedure with the AG, and we will stress to the SACs the absolute necessity for restraint and caution in using both of these techniques.

Occasionally we receive a telephone call from an SAC requesting authority on an urgent basis to place a microphone immediately to cover the activities of a (b)(6) official who is visiting a city overnight. The field is required to cover such visits to see whether the official is making contact with an espionage agent.

AHB:CSH (6)

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DO NOT
D. DONOHUE

Mr. Tolson

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Such requests are always cleared with Mr. Tolson in advance if time permits; otherwise a memorandum is written immediately, advising of the request and that authority was granted. In cases of such urgency, it is suggested we continue to handle the requests in the same manner, and immediately prepare a memorandum to the AG, putting him on notice. (S)(u)

Any other problems which may arise in implementing this new procedure will be called to your attention.

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